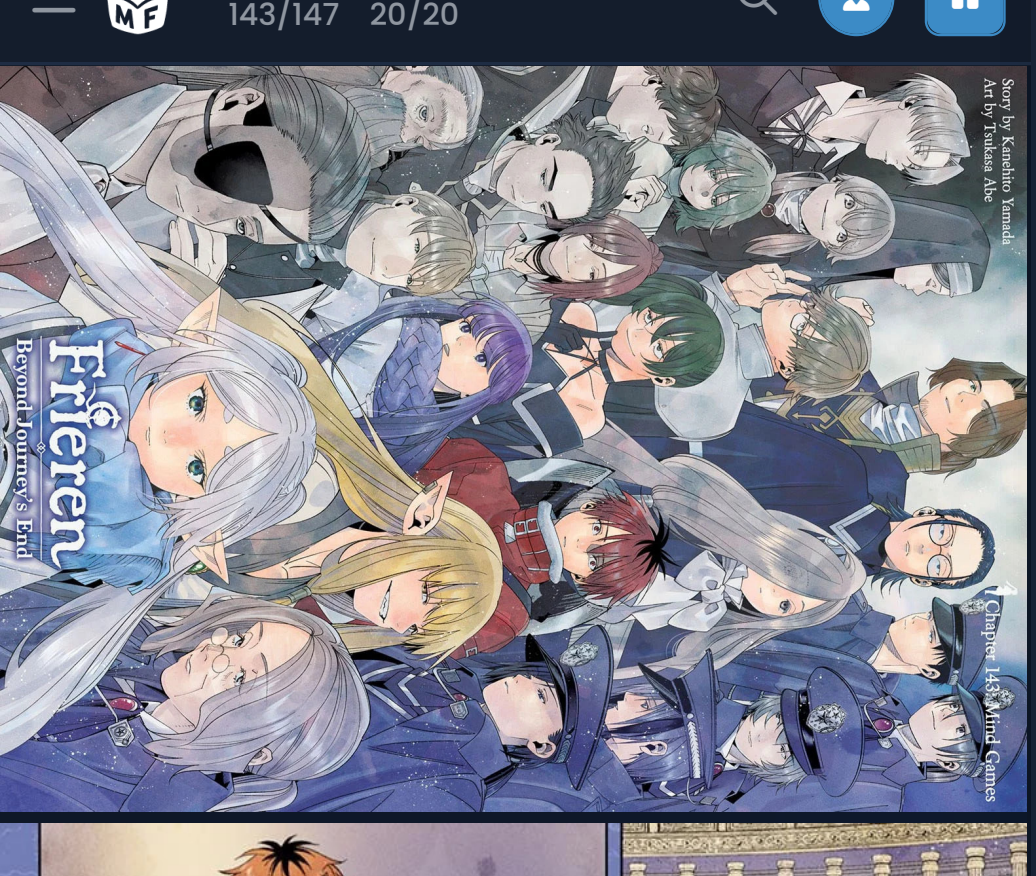
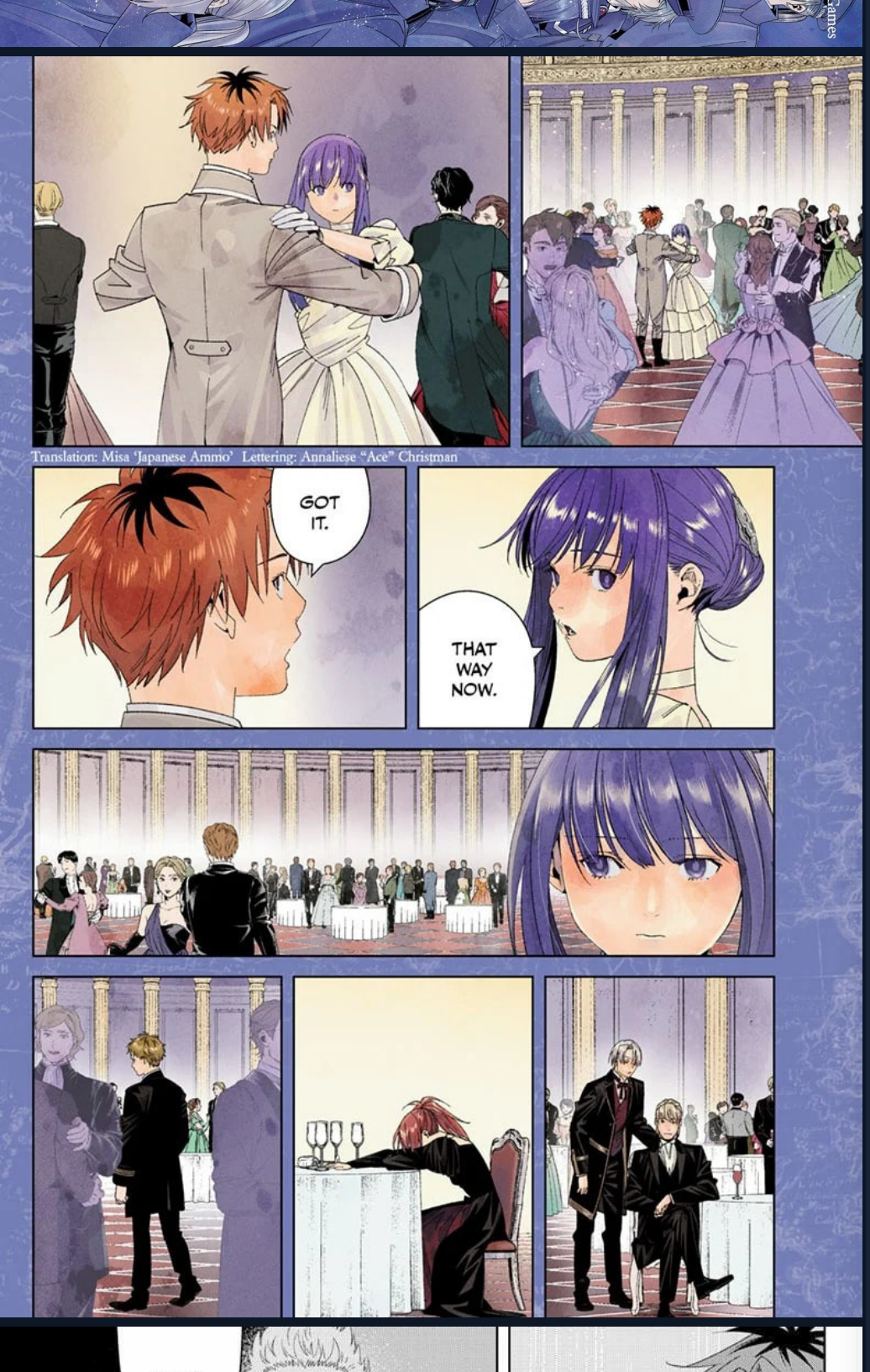
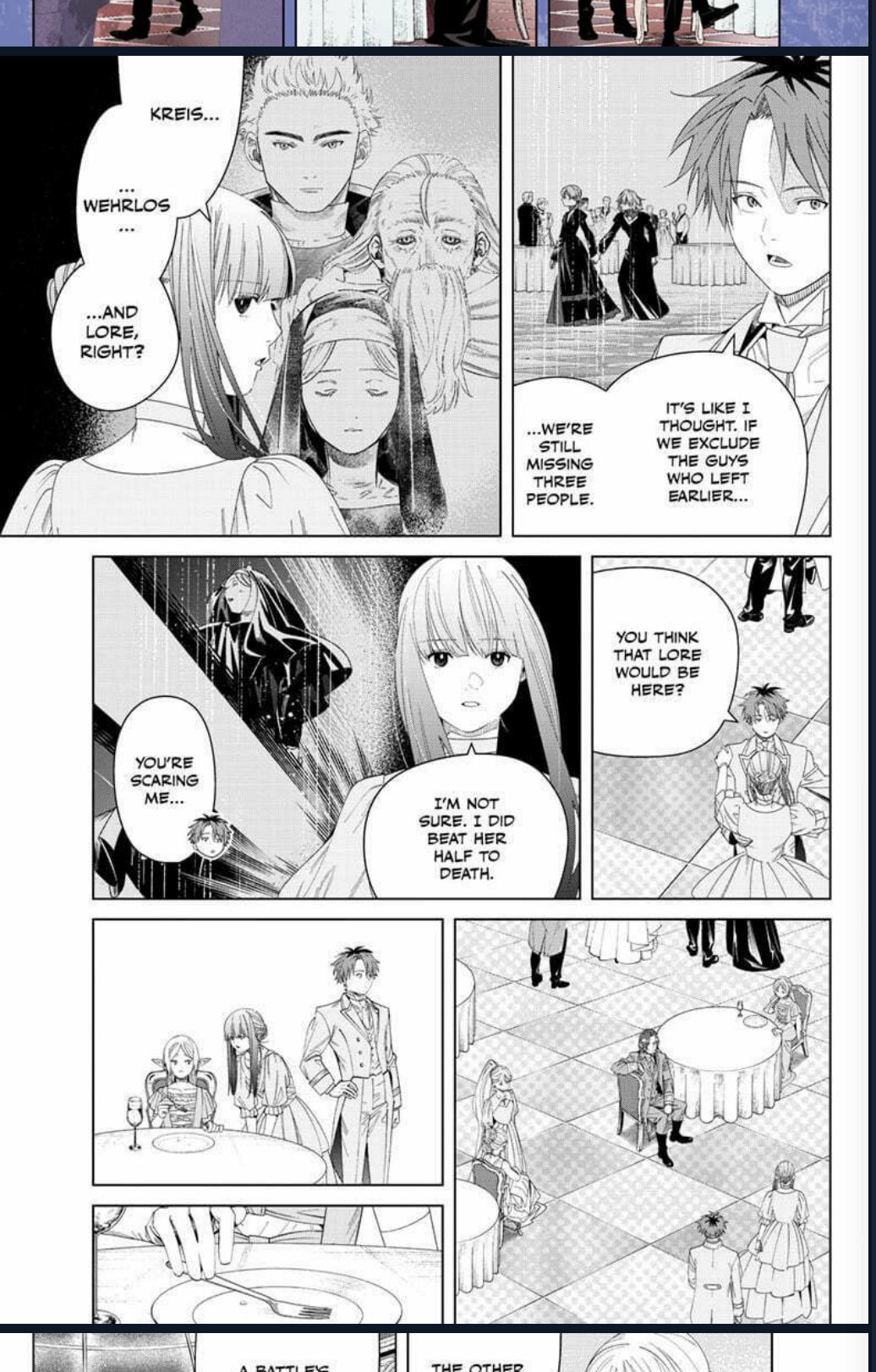


Story by Kanehito Yamada
Art by Tsukasa Abe
Frieren
Beyond Journey's End
Chapter 143: Mind Games

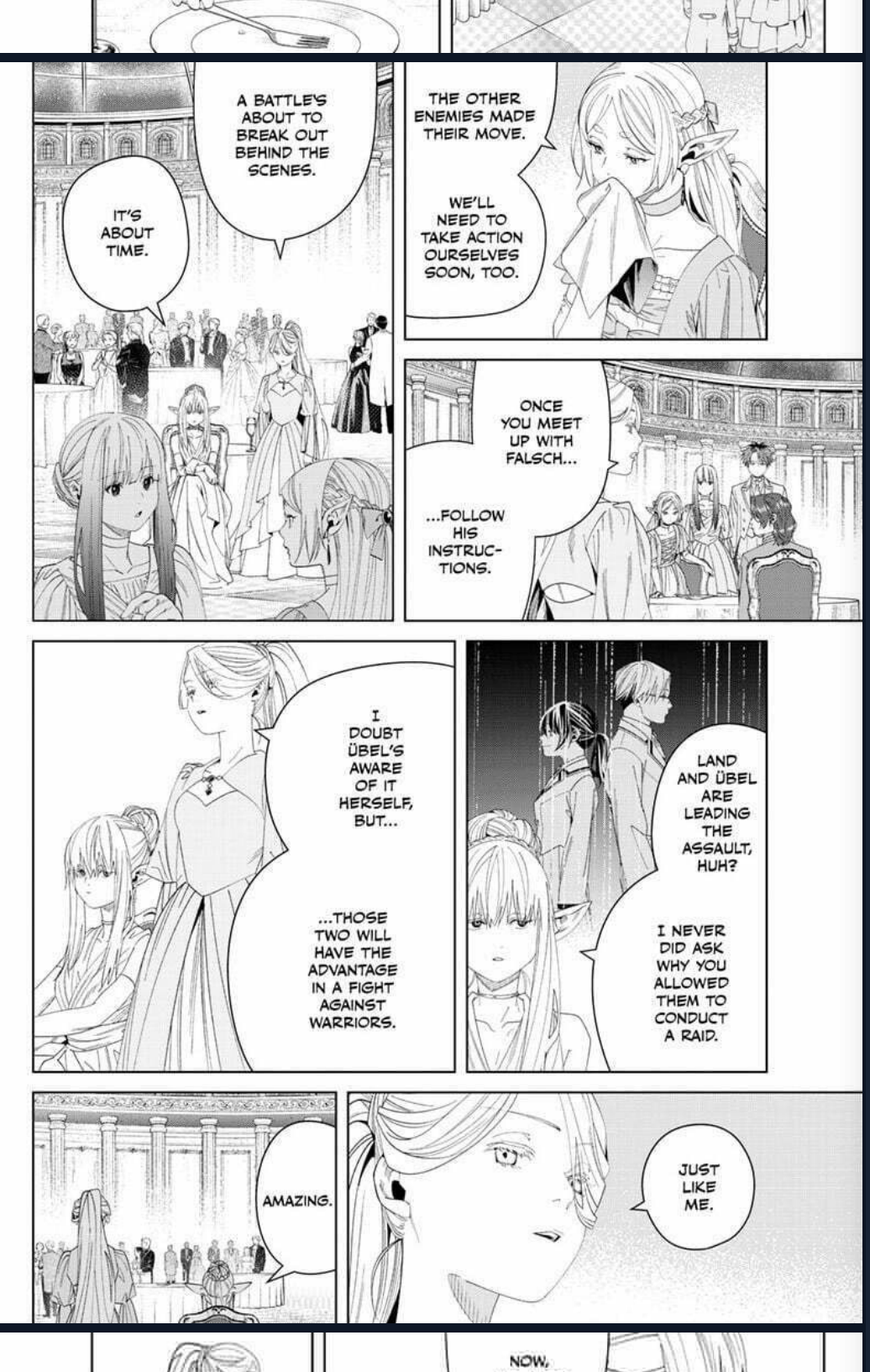


Translation: Misa 'Japanese Ammo' Lettering: Annaliese "Ace" Christman

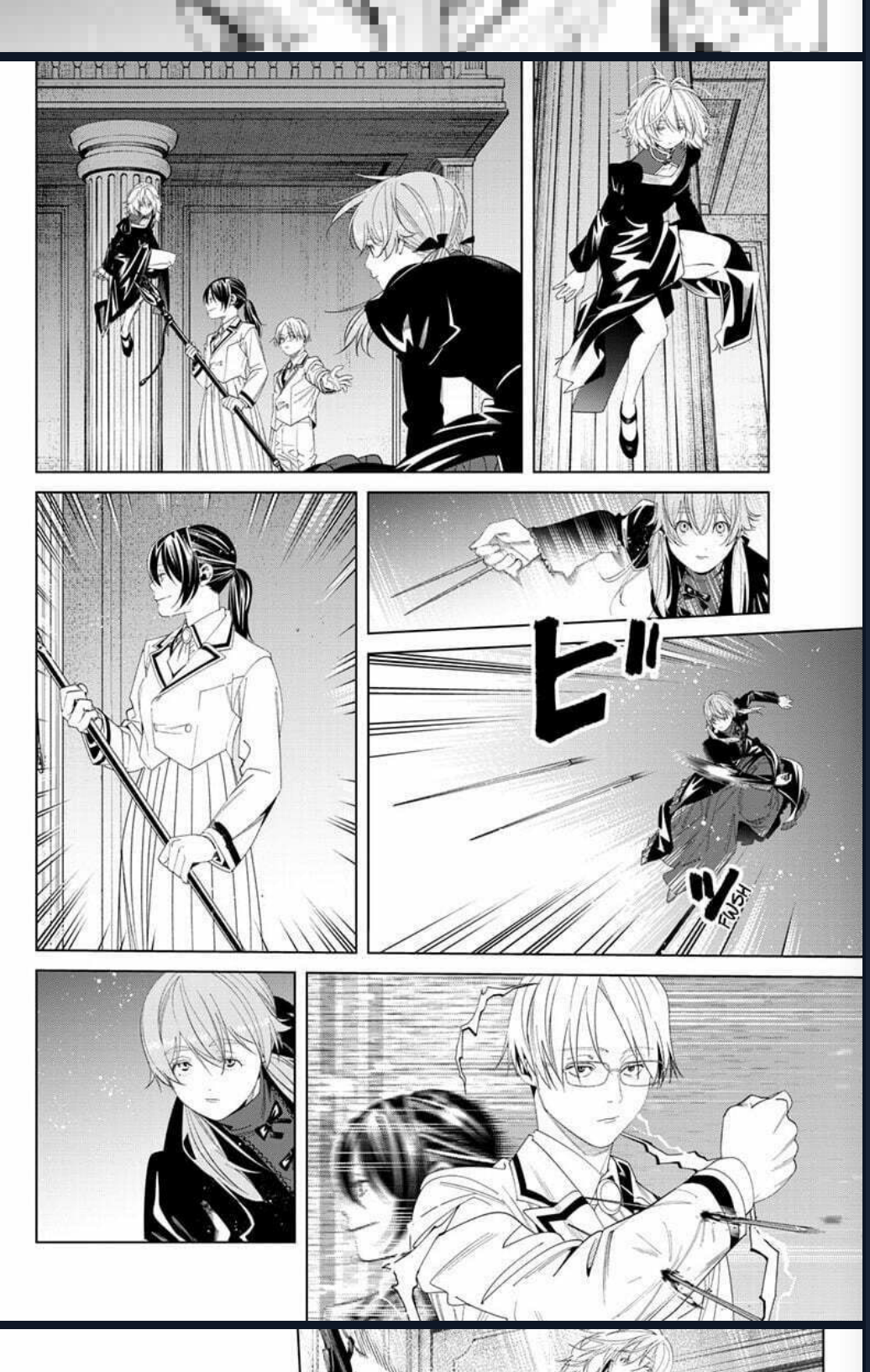
THAT WAY NOW.
GOT IT.

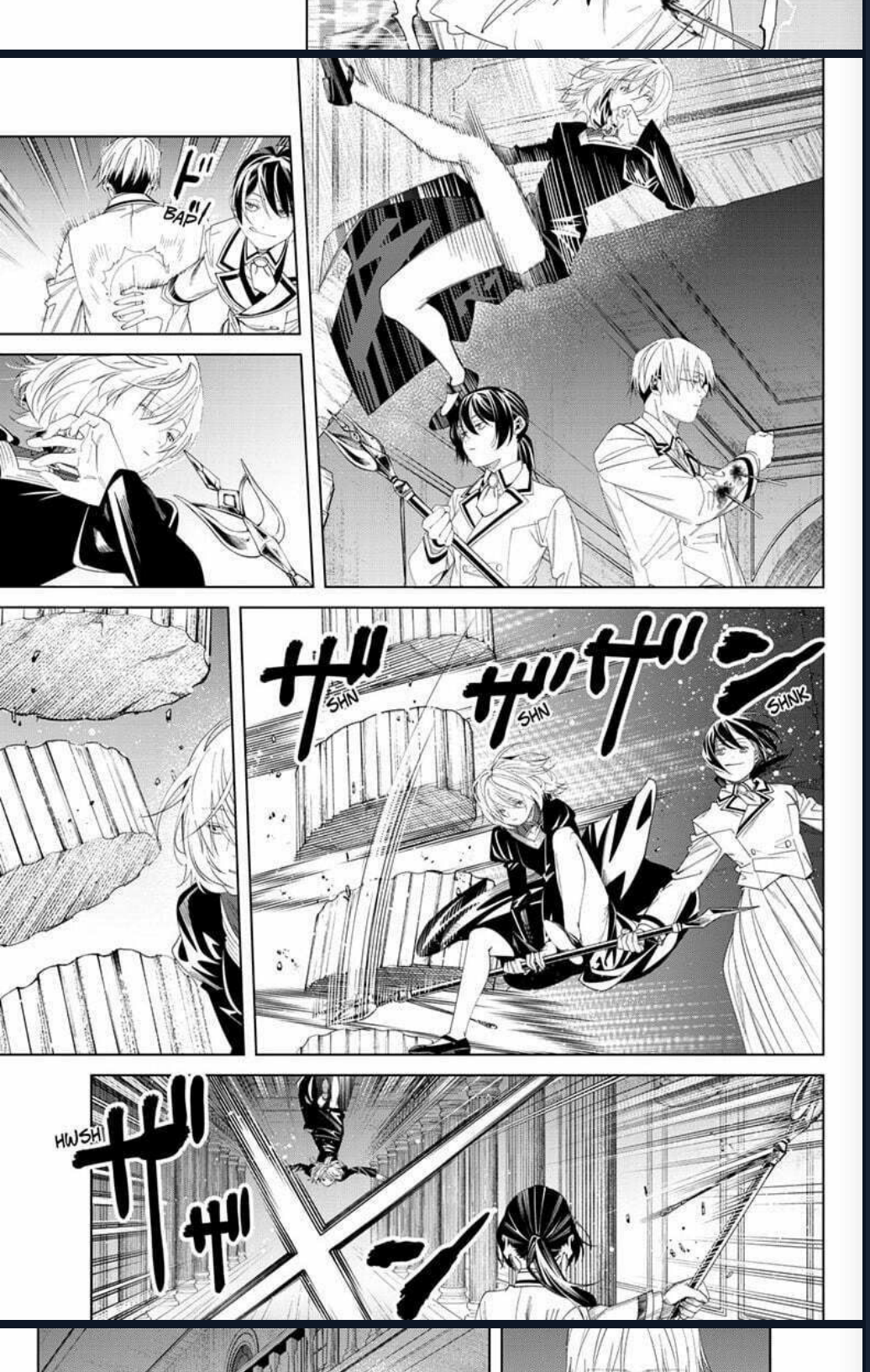


IT'S LIKE I THOUGHT. IF WE EXCLUDE THE GUYS WHO LEFT EARLIER...
...WE'RE STILL MISSING THREE PEOPLE.
KREIS...
... WEHRLOS ...
...AND LORE, RIGHT?
YOU THINK THAT LORE WOULD BE HERE?
I'M NOT SURE. I DID BEAT HER HALF TO DEATH.
YOU'RE SCARING ME...

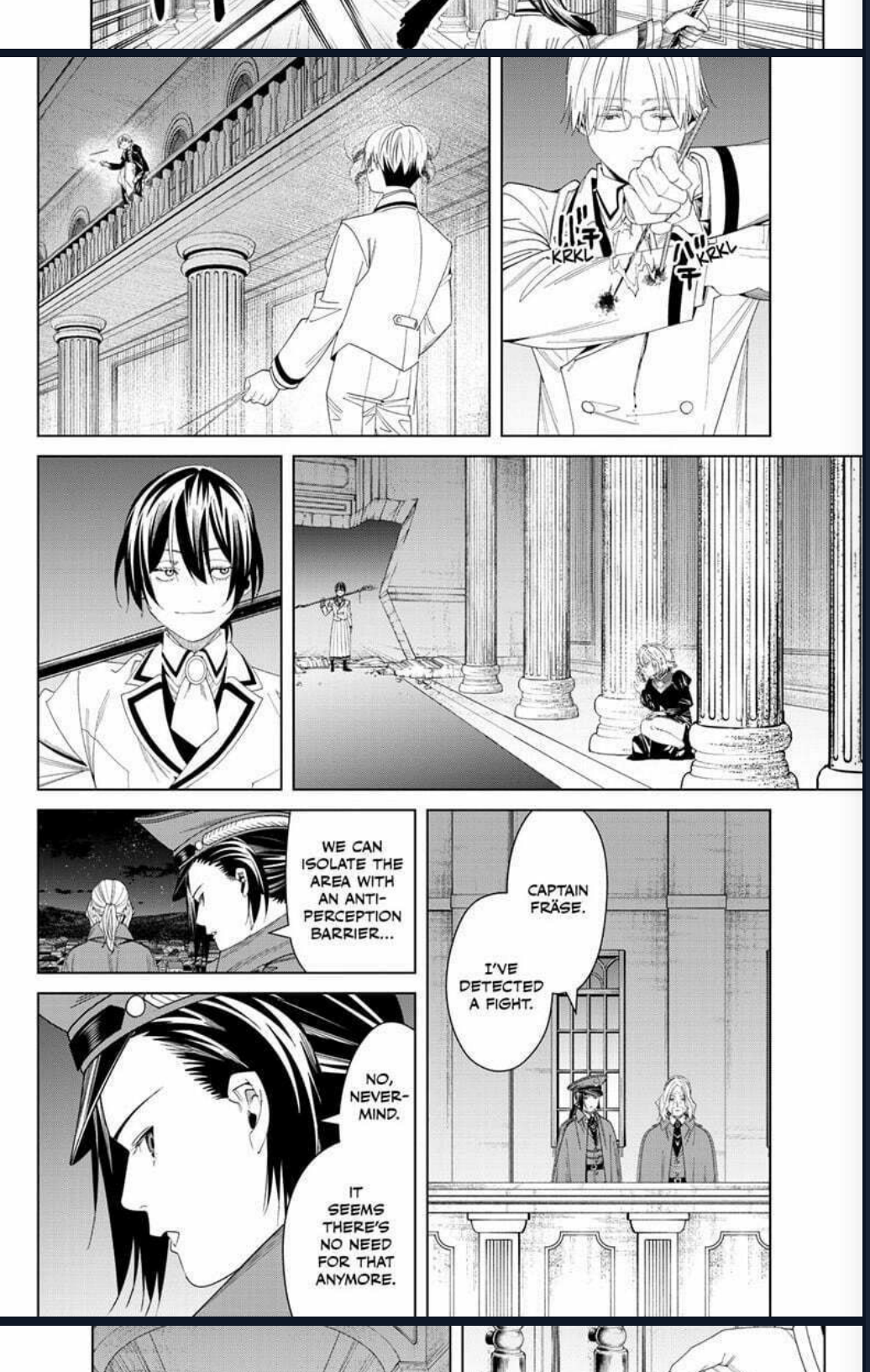


THE OTHER ENEMIES MADE THEIR MOVE.
WE'LL NEED TO TAKE ACTION OURSELVES SOON, TOO.
A BATTLE'S ABOUT TO BREAK OUT BEHIND THE SCENES.
IT'S ABOUT TIME.
ONCE YOU MEET UP WITH FALSCH...
...FOLLOW HIS INSTRUCTIONS.
LAND AND ÜBEL ARE LEADING THE ASSAULT, HUH?
I NEVER DID ASK WHY YOU ALLOWED THEM TO CONDUCT A RAID.
I DOUBT ÜBEL'S AWARE OF IT HERSELF, BUT...
...THOSE TWO WILL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE IN A FIGHT AGAINST WARRIORS.
JUST LIKE ME.
AMAZING.

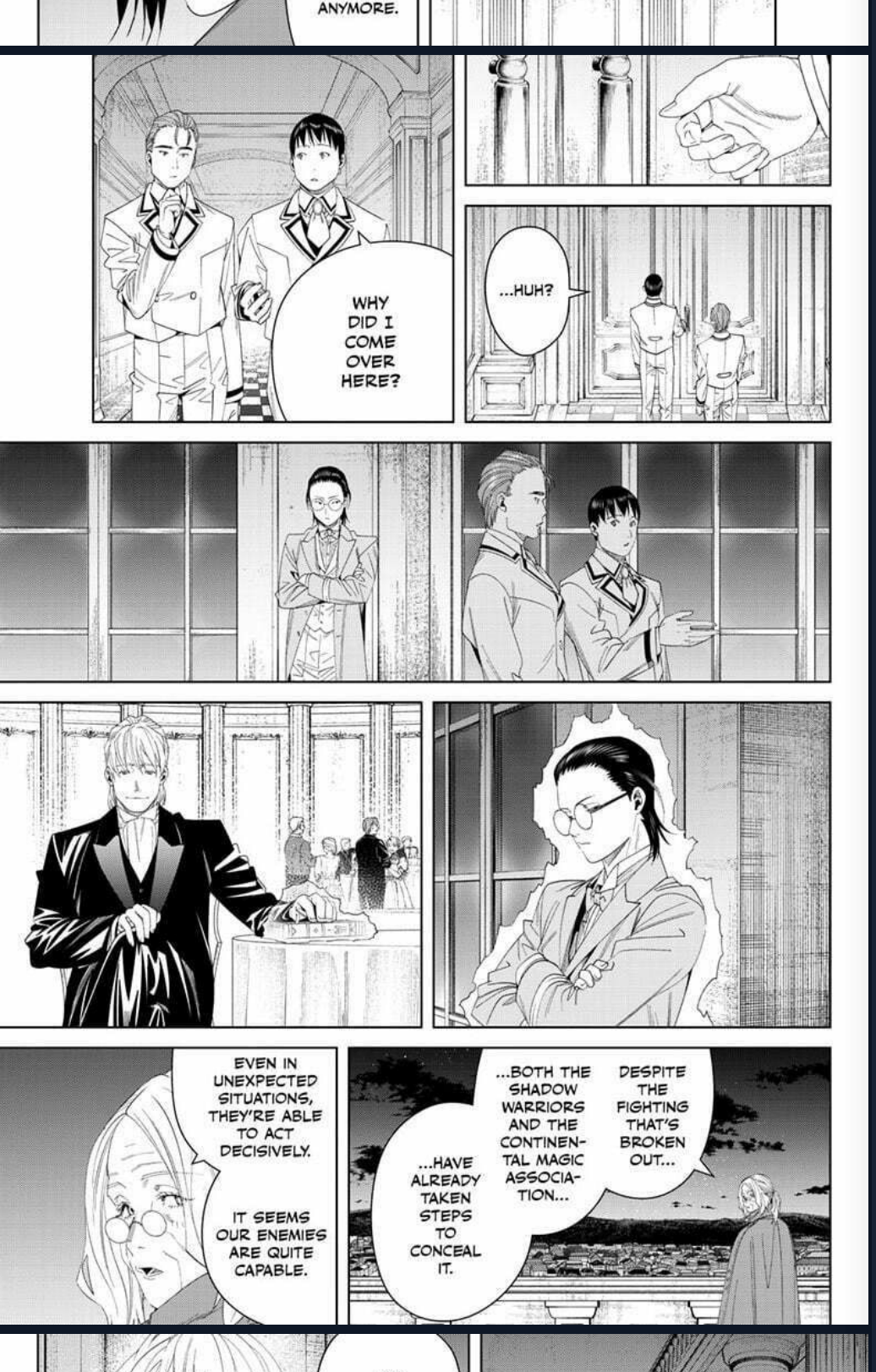




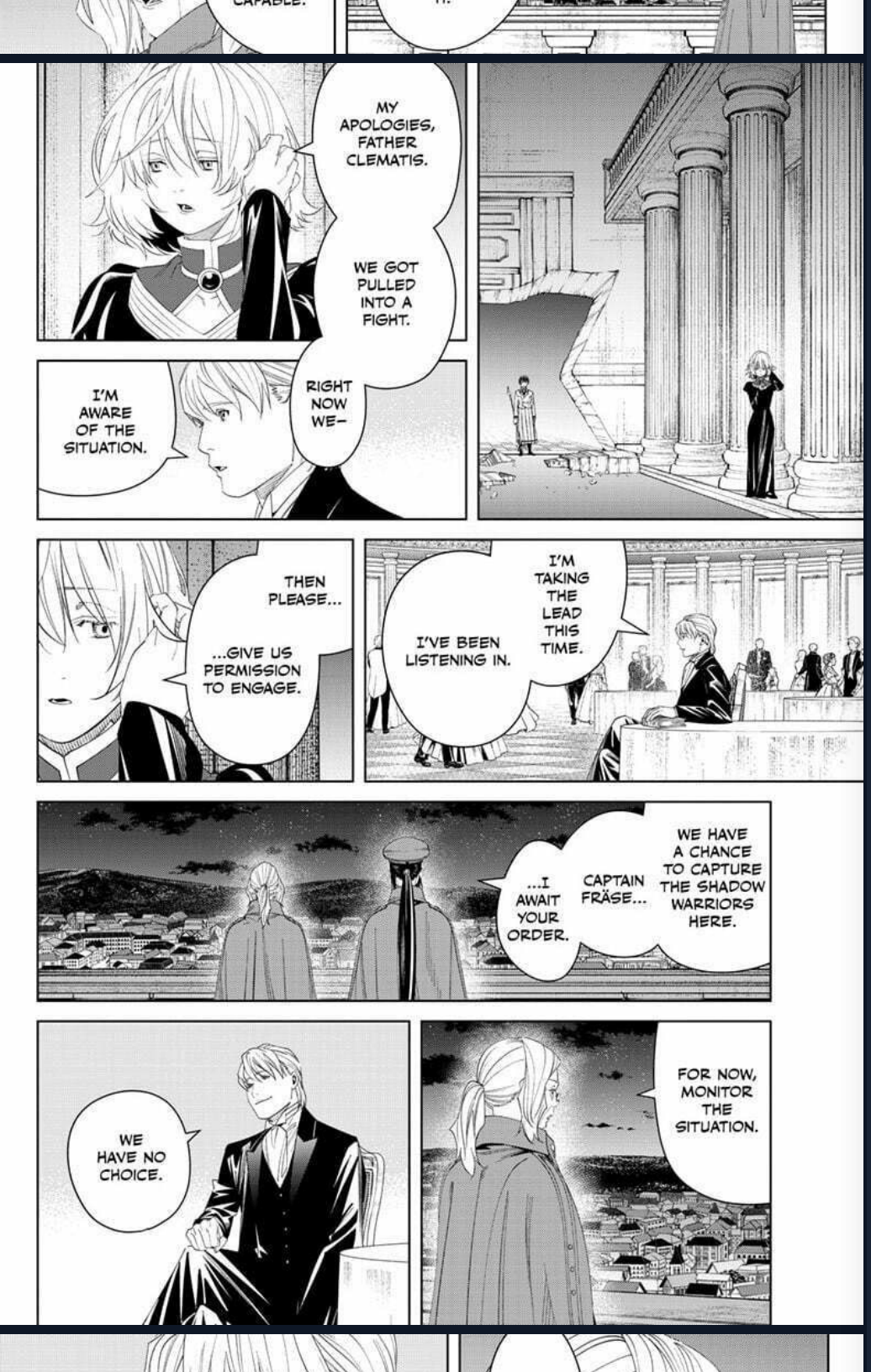
BAP!
SHN
SHN
SHNK
HWSH



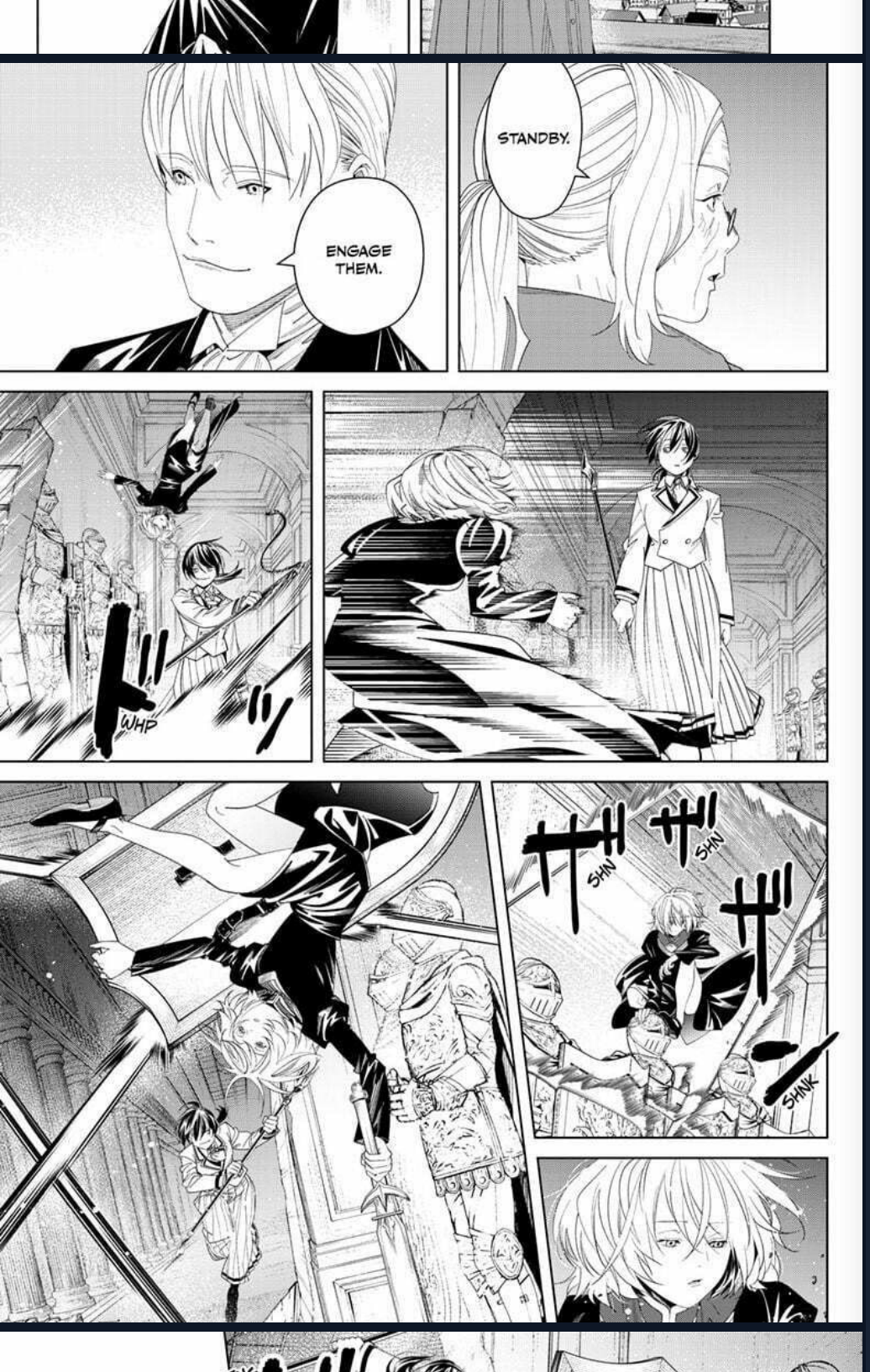
KRKL
KRKL
CAPTAIN FRÄSE.
I'VE DETECTED A FIGHT.
WE CAN ISOLATE THE AREA WITH AN ANTI-PERCEPTION BARRIER...
NO, NEVER-MIND.
IT SEEMS THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT ANYMORE.



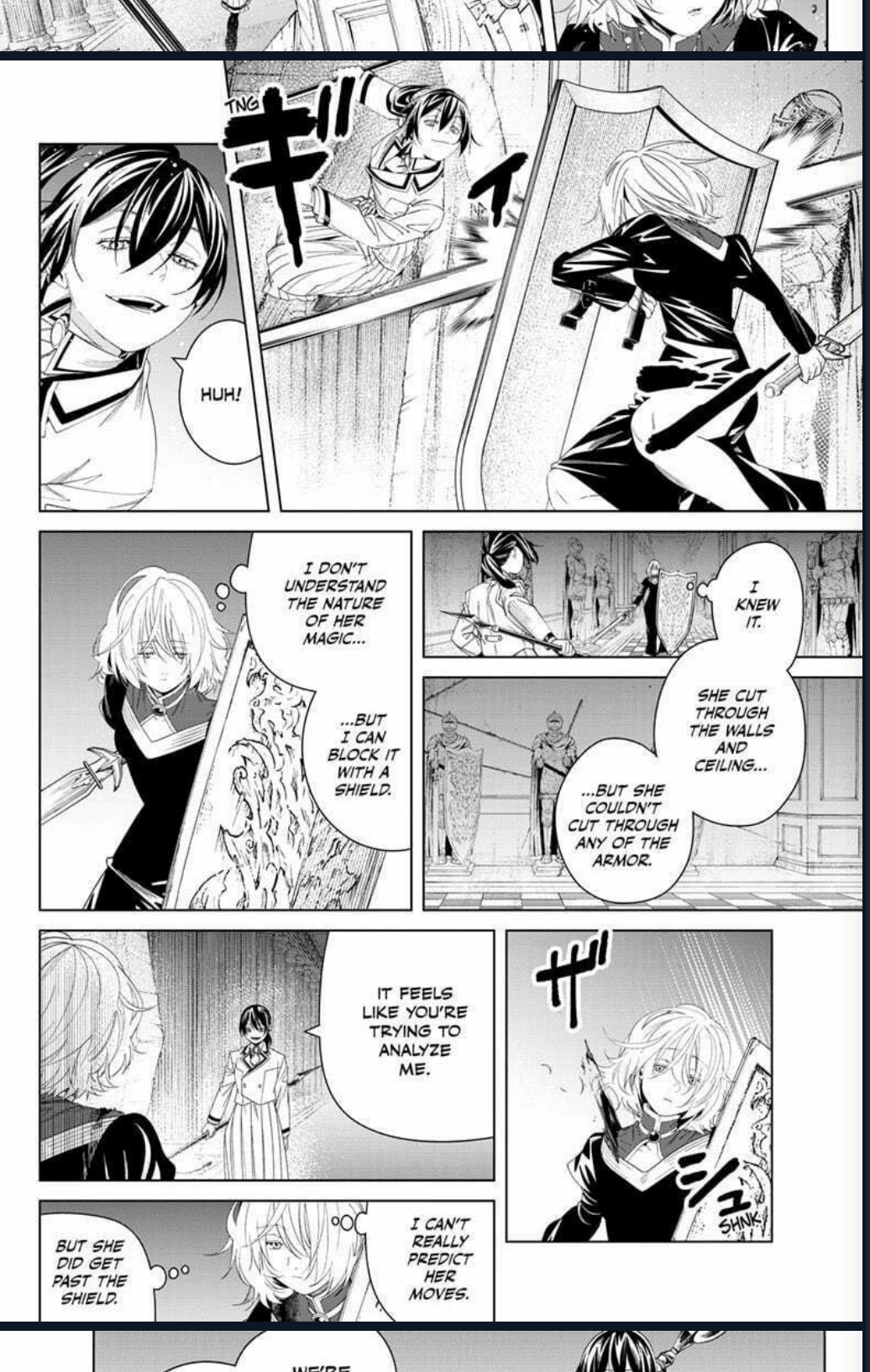
...HUH?
WHY DID I COME OVER HERE?
DESPITE THE FIGHTING THAT'S BROKEN OUT...
...BOTH THE SHADOW WARRIORS AND THE CONTINENTAL MAGIC ASSOCIATION...
...HAVE ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO CONCEAL IT.
EVEN IN UNEXPECTED SITUATIONS, THEY'RE ABLE TO ACT DECISIVELY.
IT SEEMS OUR ENEMIES ARE QUITE CAPABLE.



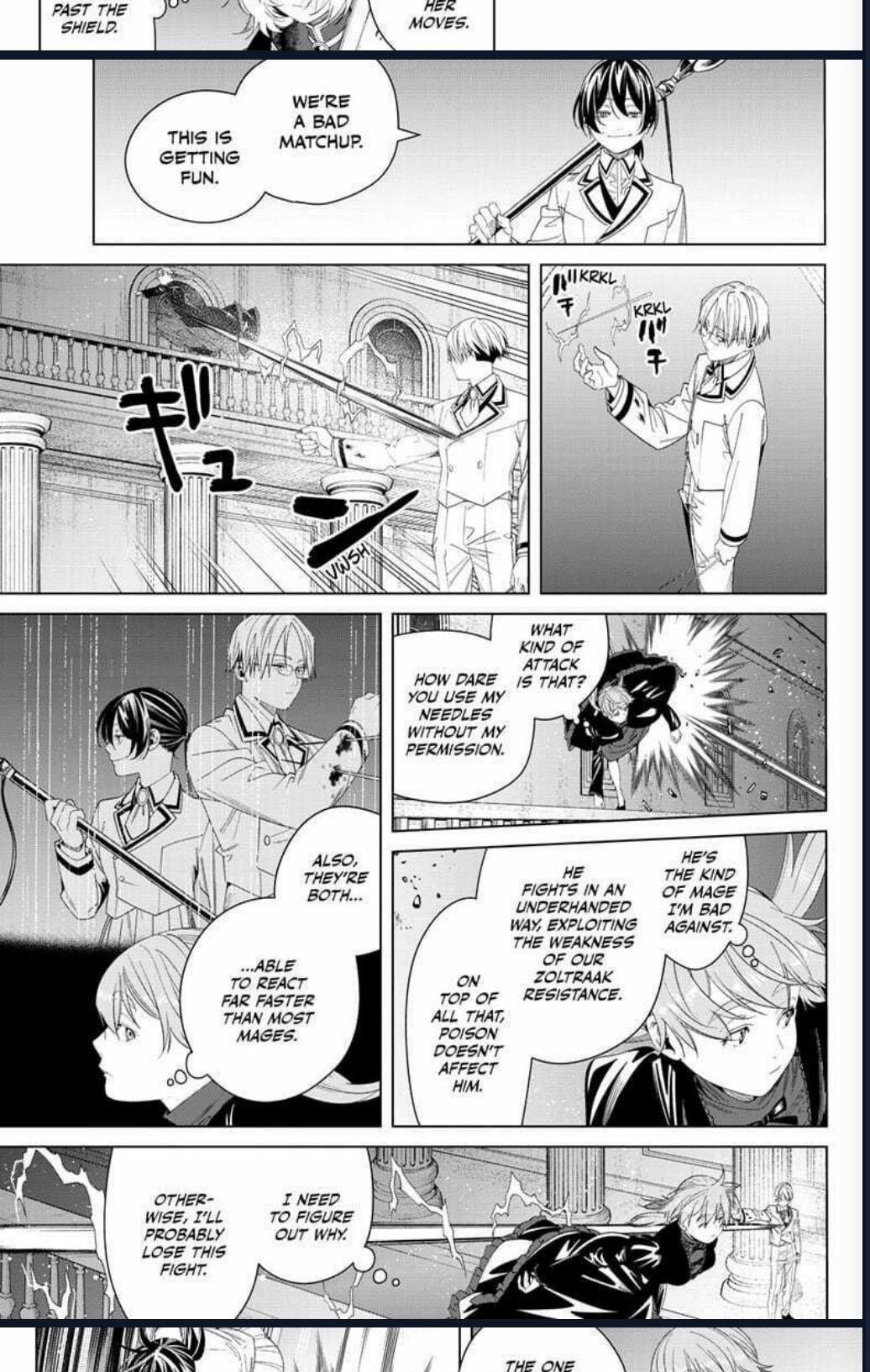
MY APOLOGIES, FATHER CLEMATIS.
WE GOT PULLED INTO A FIGHT.
RIGHT NOW WE—
I'M AWARE OF THE SITUATION.
I'M TAKING THE LEAD THIS TIME.
I'VE BEEN LISTENING IN.
THEN PLEASE...
...GIVE US PERMISSION TO ENGAGE.
WE HAVE A CHANCE TO CAPTURE THE SHADOW WARRIORS HERE.
CAPTAIN FRÄSE...
...I AWAIT YOUR ORDER.
FOR NOW, MONITOR THE SITUATION.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.



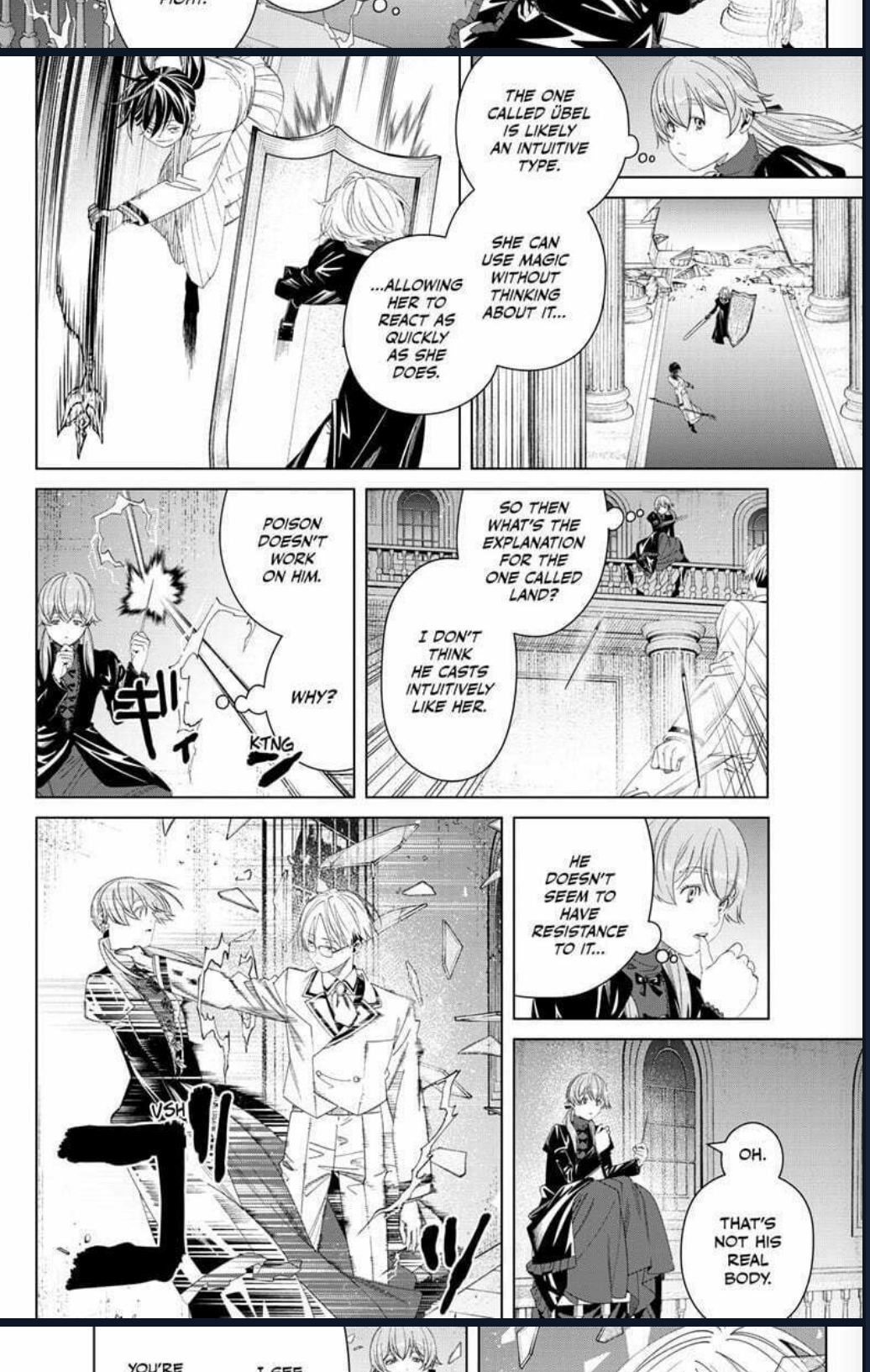
STANDBY.
ENGAGE THEM.
WHP
SHN
SHN
SHNK



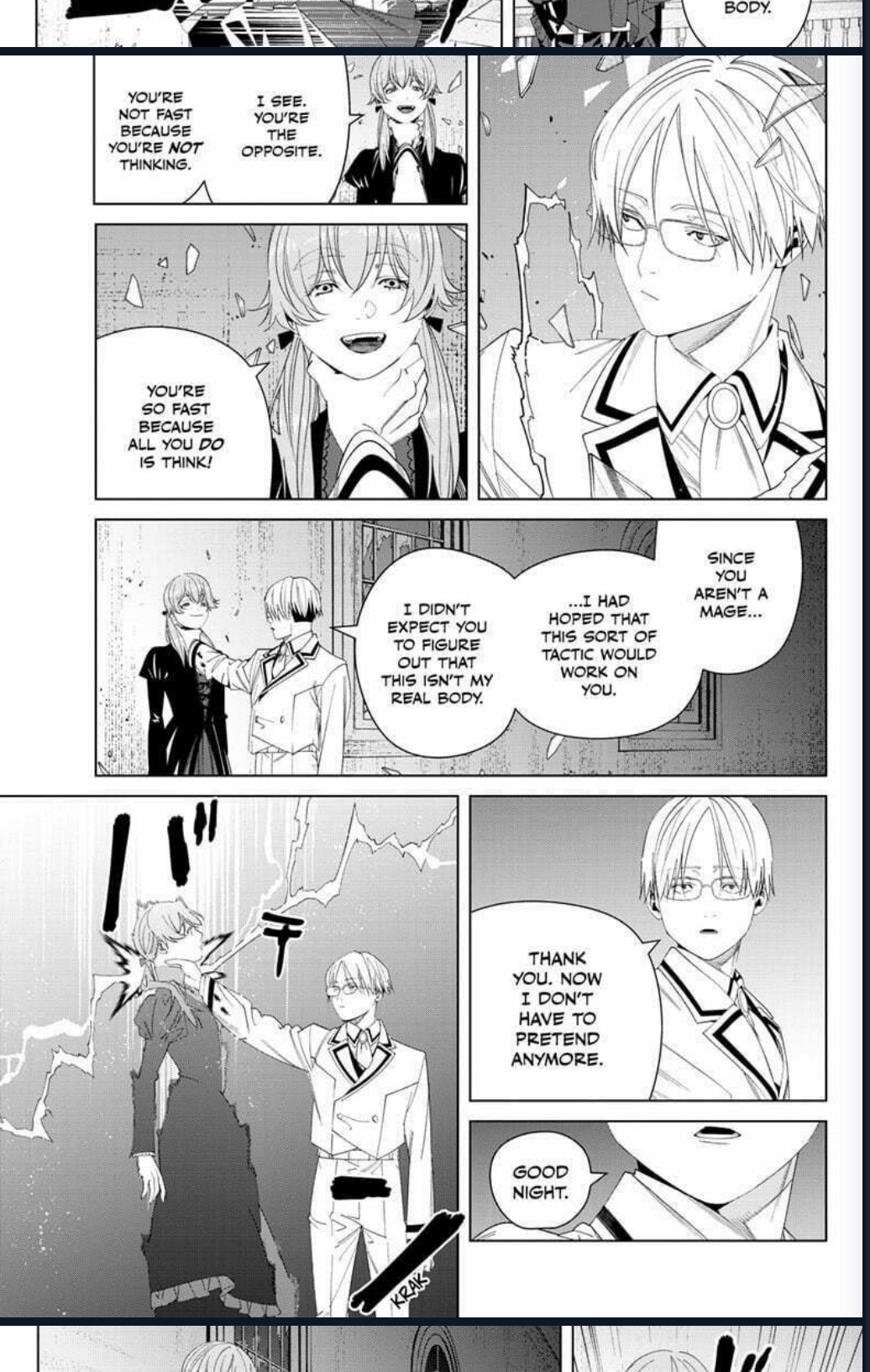
TNG
HUH!
I KNEW IT.
SHE CUT THROUGH THE WALLS AND CEILING...
...BUT SHE COULDN'T CUT THROUGH ANY OF THE ARMOR.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF HER MAGIC...
...BUT I CAN BLOCK IT WITH A SHIELD.
SHNK
IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO ANALYZE ME.
I CAN'T REALLY PREDICT HER MOVES.
BUT SHE DID GET PAST THE SHIELD.



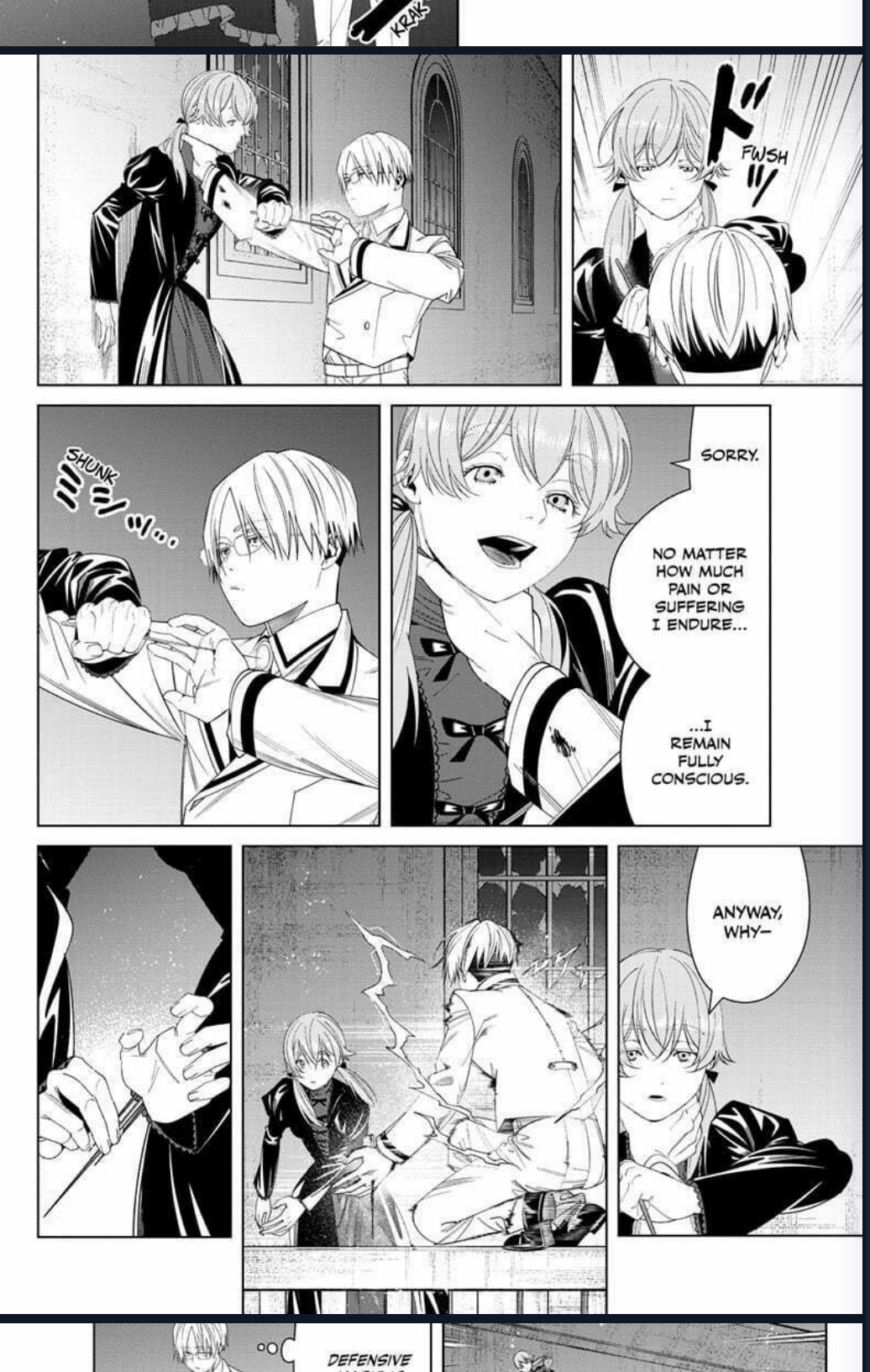
WE'RE A BAD MATCHUP.
THIS IS GETTING FUN.
KRKL
KRKL
VUSH
WHAT KIND OF ATTACK IS THAT?
HOW DARE YOU USE MY NEEDLES WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.
HE'S THE KIND OF MAGE I'M BAD AGAINST.
HE FIGHTS IN AN UNDERHANDED WAY, EXPLOITING THE WEAKNESS OF OUR ZOLTRAAK RESISTANCE.
ON TOP OF ALL THAT, POISON DOESN'T AFFECT HIM.
ALSO, THEY'RE BOTH...
...ABLE TO REACT FAR FASTER THAN MOST MAGES.
I NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHY.
OTHER-WISE, I'LL PROBABLY LOSE THIS FIGHT.



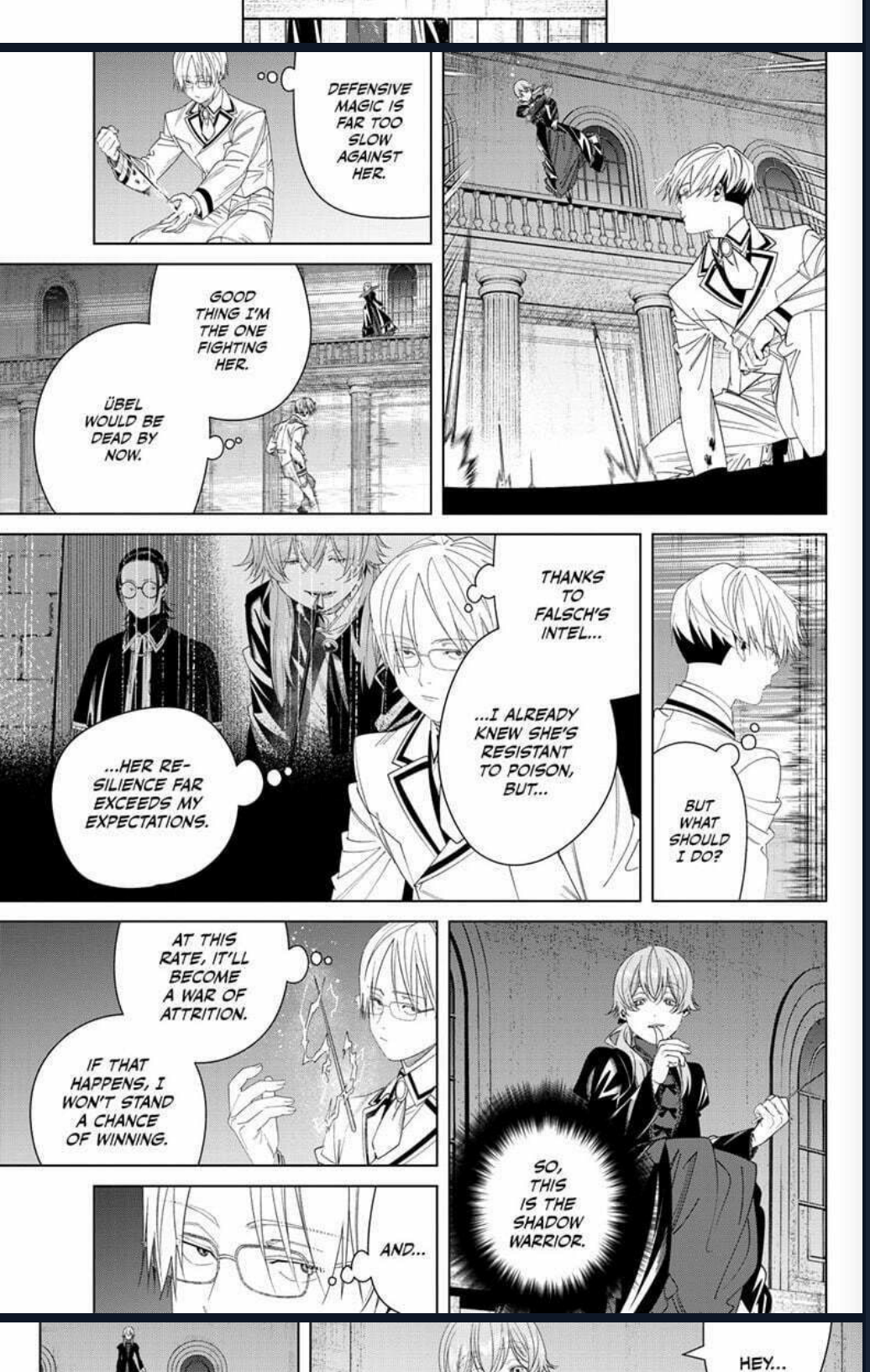
THE ONE CALLED ÜBEL IS LIKELY AN INTUITIVE TYPE.
SHE CAN USE MAGIC WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT...
...ALLOWING HER TO REACT AS QUICKLY AS SHE DOES.
SO THEN WHAT'S THE EXPLANATION FOR THE ONE CALLED LAND?
I DON'T THINK HE CASTS INTUITIVELY LIKE HER.
POISON DOESN'T WORK ON HIM.
WHY?
KTNG
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE RESISTANCE TO IT...
VSH
OH.
THAT'S NOT HIS REAL BODY.



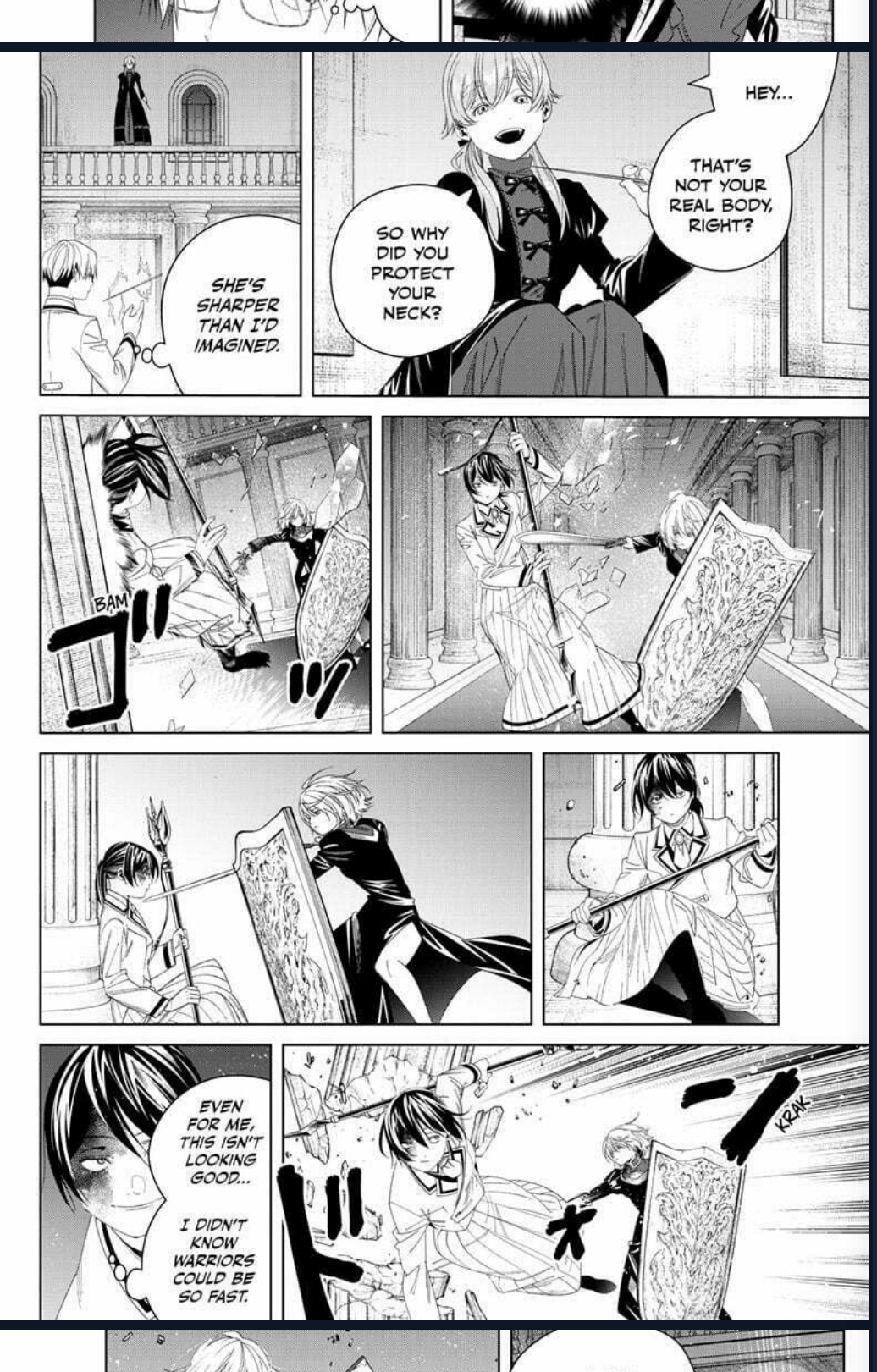
I SEE. YOU'RE THE OPPOSITE.
YOU'RE NOT FAST BECAUSE YOU'RE *NOT* THINKING.
YOU'RE SO FAST BECAUSE ALL YOU *DO* IS THINK!
SINCE YOU AREN'T A MAGE...
...I HAD HOPED THAT THIS SORT OF TACTIC WOULD WORK ON YOU.
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO FIGURE OUT THAT THIS ISN'T MY REAL BODY.
THANK YOU. NOW I DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND ANYMORE.
GOOD NIGHT.
KRAK



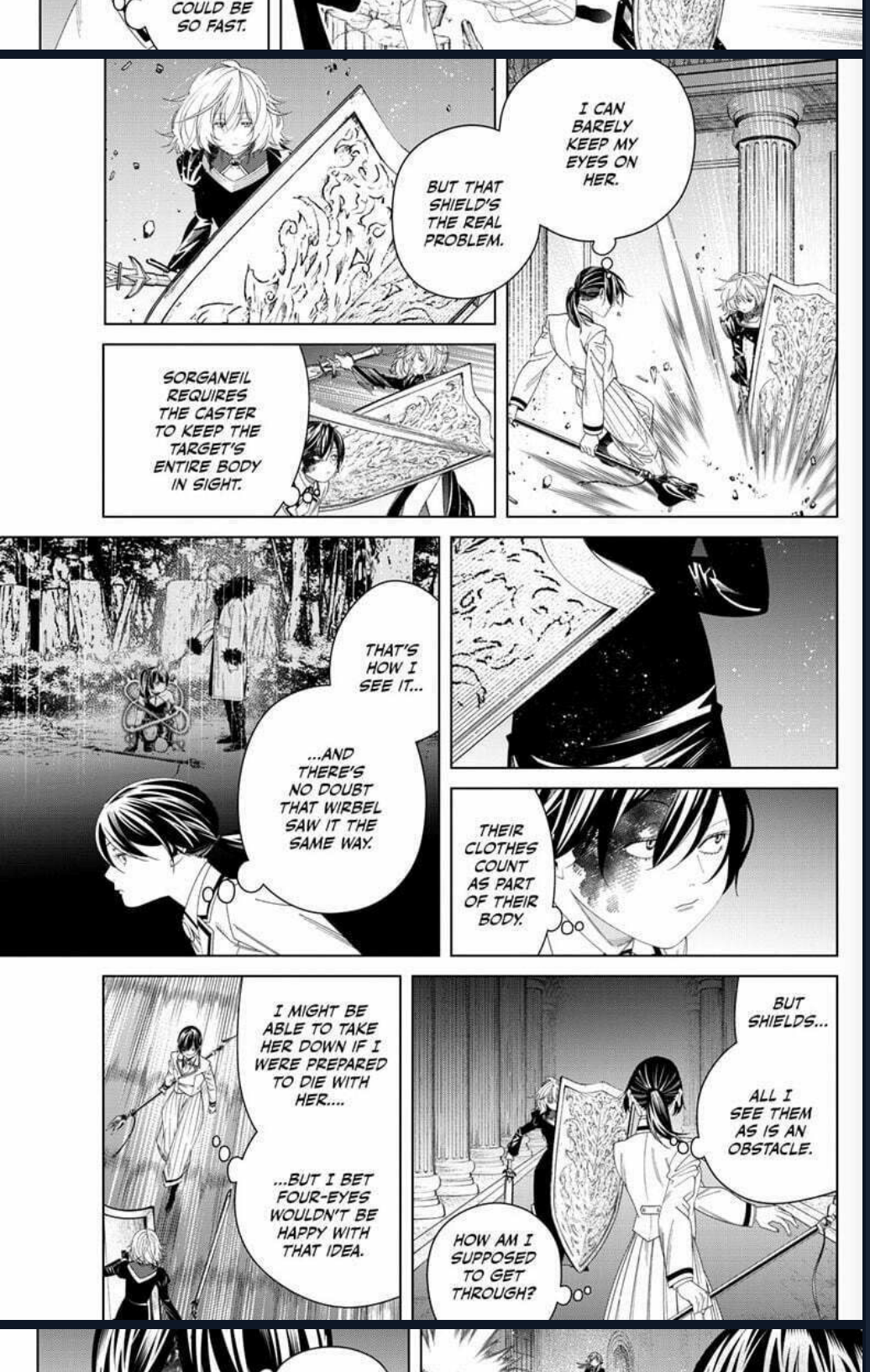
FWSH
SORRY.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH PAIN OR SUFFERING I ENDURE...
...I REMAIN FULLY CONSCIOUS.
SHUNK
ANYWAY, WHY—



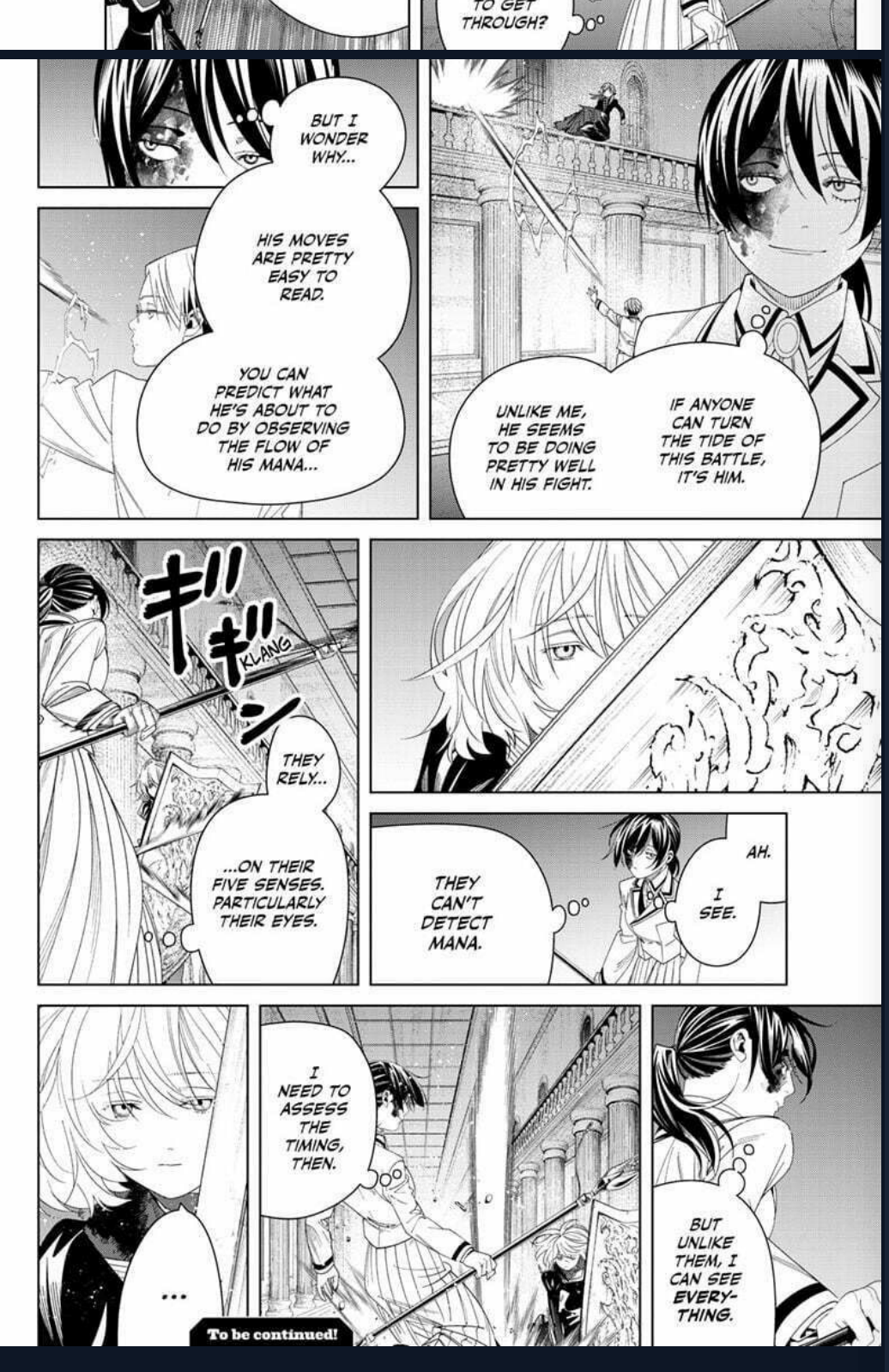
DEFENSIVE MAGIC IS FAR TOO SLOW AGAINST HER.
GOOD THING I'M THE ONE FIGHTING HER.
ÜBEL WOULD BE DEAD BY NOW.
BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THANKS TO FALSCH'S INTEL...
...I ALREADY KNEW SHE'S RESISTANT TO POISON, BUT...
...HER RE-SILIENCE FAR EXCEEDS MY EXPECTATIONS.
SO, THIS IS THE SHADOW WARRIOR.
AT THIS RATE, IT'LL BECOME A WAR OF ATTRITION.
IF THAT HAPPENS, I WON'T STAND A CHANCE OF WINNING.
AND...



HEY...
THAT'S NOT YOUR REAL BODY, RIGHT?
SO WHY DID YOU PROTECT YOUR NECK?
SHE'S SHARPER THAN I'D IMAGINED.
BAM
KRAK
EVEN FOR ME, THIS ISN'T LOOKING GOOD...
I DIDN'T KNOW WARRIORS COULD BE SO FAST.



I CAN BARELY KEEP MY EYES ON HER.
BUT THAT SHIELD'S THE REAL PROBLEM.
SORGANEIL REQUIRES THE CASTER TO KEEP THE TARGET'S ENTIRE BODY IN SIGHT.
THEIR CLOTHES COUNT AS PART OF THEIR BODY.
THAT'S HOW I SEE IT...
...AND THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT WIRBEL SAW IT THE SAME WAY.
BUT SHIELDS...
ALL I SEE THEM AS IS AN OBSTACLE.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET THROUGH?
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO TAKE HER DOWN IF I WERE PREPARED TO DIE WITH HER....
...BUT I BET FOUR-EYES WOULDN'T BE HAPPY WITH THAT IDEA.



IF ANYONE CAN TURN THE TIDE OF THIS BATTLE, IT'S HIM.
UNLIKE ME, HE SEEMS TO BE DOING PRETTY WELL IN HIS FIGHT.
BUT I WONDER WHY...
HIS MOVES ARE PRETTY EASY TO READ.
YOU CAN PREDICT WHAT HE'S ABOUT TO DO BY OBSERVING THE FLOW OF HIS MANA...
KLANG
THEY RELY...
...ON THEIR FIVE SENSES. PARTICULARLY THEIR EYES.
THEY CAN'T DETECT MANA.
AH.
I SEE.
BUT UNLIKE THEM, I CAN SEE EVERY-THING.
I NEED TO ASSESS THE TIMING, THEN.
...

To be continued!

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